At the second meeting held last night, the committee proceeded to reduce the 14 to 6, and the six remaining after the votes were taken on this point were:—

| No. | Votes. | No. | Votes. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Nec temere nec timide | 16 | 26. Dum spiro spero | 12 |
| 2. Maltese cross | 16 | 7. Gold cross on blue shield | 9 |
| 12. Spero succedere | 134 | 16. Labore et honore | 8 |

The committee then proceeded to reduce the 6 to 4, by ascertaining the number of votes given for each. The four having the largest numbers were as follows:—

| No. | Votes. | No. | Votes. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Nec temere nec timide | 17 | 12. Spero succedere | 13 |
| 2. Maltese cross | 14 | 26. Dum spiro spero | 13 |

The committee then adopted the following resolution:—

That the committee report to the council that they have selected four out of the fifty plans received in answer to the competition advertisement, as appearing to them, after careful examination, to be the best adapted for the purpose of the Leicester Cemetery, but before coming to any conclusion by the council, the committee recommend that a searching examination should be made into the estimates and the probability of the schemes being carried out for about the total sum mentioned by the architects; and that if it should be found on examination that they cannot be so carried out, the committee in such case are not to be considered as recommending any of the four designs now selected for the consideration of the council."

## ANOTHER BLUNDERING PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

THE METROPOLITAN SEWERS' ACT, 11 & 12 VICT., C. 112.

SIR,—This Act (sect. 47) repeals the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings' Act with regard to drains and cesspools, so far as the same are inconsistent with its own provisions, and subjects the surveyors under the latter Act to the directions, in respect of such matters, of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers.

I pass over, for the present, the absence, as it seems to me, of anything in the Sewers' Act with which the provisions relating to drains, &c., of the Buildings' Act are to be measured, with a view to determine the inconsistency or otherwise of the one with the other; and I shall make no remark upon the repetition in the new Sewers' Act of the defective provisions of the other, by which district surveyors are required to make returns of notices only of building and rebuilding houses and other buildings, without including operations of the kind contemplated, of which the parties concerned neglect or refuse to give notice to the surveyor, further than to say that in some districts these form no inconsiderable part of the whole number of buildings and rebuildings, whilst these almost always involve the cases to which it is most important the drainage should be enforced.

My present purpose is to shew that, so far as the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings' Act are repealed, the district surveyors are left wholly without power to give effect to the directions of the Commissioners of Sewers. They are required to give information to those commissioners of any drain or work not conformable to the direction of the Sewers' Act, and in case the commissioners shall so direct, *to act in relation to such drain or work in the same manner as in the case of any work or other thing done contrary to the rules or directions of the Buildings' Act.* This manner is by information of the Official Referees, who, upon receipt of such information, are required to proceed to hear the matter, and thereupon to award and direct (sect. 14 M. B. A.), effect being given to the law by any two justices of the peace, upon the certificate of the official referees that a breach of it has been committed (sect. 18, *ibid.*). *But the authority of the official referees to adjudicate, and of the justices to enforce, is strictly limited by the Metropolitan Buildings' Act* (sect. 14, 18, 82, *cum multis aliis*) *to matters within the limits of that Act*, and the new Sewers' Act does not, so far as I can discover, give any authority to the official referees to entertain questions arising out of its provisions, whilst the power of interference of the Commissioners of Sewers themselves, seems to be precluded in matters supposed to be substituted for the repealed provision of the Buildings' Act, by the directions of the district surveyors to act in relation to irregular drains, &c., "in the same manner as in the case of any work or other thing done contrary to the rules or directions of the said Act of the 7th and 8th year of her present Majesty," that is to say, of the Metropolitan Buildings Act.

Under these circumstances I ask, "How is the Queen's Government to be carried on?" How is the spick and span New Metropolitan Sewers Act to be administered and enforced in relation to the application of drains to buildings—the be-all and end-all of the Act? and while I pause for a reply, remain, Sir, &c.,

A SURVEYOR UNDER THE METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.

October 24th, 1848.

## LABOUR! A BALLAD FOR OUR MINES AND MANUFACTORIES.

FAIR work for fair wages! it's all that we ask.
An Englishman loves what is fair,—
We'll never complain of the toil or the task,
If Livelihood comes with the care.
Fair work for fair wages! we hope nothing else
Of the mill, or the forge, or the soil,
For the rich man who buys, and the poor man who sells,
Must pay and be paid for his toil!

Fair work for fair wages,—we know that the claim
Is just between master and man:
If the tables were turn'd we would serve him the same,
And promise we will when we can!
We give to him industry, muscles, and thews,
And heartily work for his wealth,
So he will as honestly yield us our dues,
Good wages for labour in health!

Enough for the day, and a bit to put by
Against illness, and slackness, and age;
For change and misfortune are ever too nigh
Alike to the fool and the sage.
But the fool in his harvest will wanton and waste,
Forgetting the winter once more,
While true British wisdom will timely make haste
And save for the "basket and store."

Aye; wantonness freezes to want, be assured,
And drinking makes nothing to eat,
And penury's wasting by waste is secured,
And luxury starves in the street!
And many a father with little ones pale,
So rack'd by his cares and his pains,
Might now be all right if, when hearty and hale,
He never had squander'd his gains!

We know that prosperity's glittering sun
Can shine but a little, and then
The harvest is over, the summer is done,
Alike for the master and men:
If the factory ship with its captain on board
Must beat in adversity's waves,
One lot is for all! for the great cotton lord
And the poorest of commerce's slaves.

One lot! if extravagance reign'd in the home,
Then poverty's wormwood and gall;
If rational foresight of evils to come,
A cheerful complacence in all:
For sweet is the morsel that diligence earn'd,
And sweeter, that prudence put by;
And lessons of peace in affliction are learn'd,
And wisdom that comes from on high!

For GOD in his providence ruling above,
And piloting all things below,
Is ever unchangeable justice and love
In ordering welfare or woe:
He blesses the prudent for heaven and earth,
And gladdens the good at all times,—
But frowns on the sinner, and darkens his mirth,
And lashes his follies and crimes!

Alas! for the babes, and the poor pallid wife
Hurl'd down with the sot to despair,—
Yet,—GOD shall reward in a happier life
Their punishment, patience, and pray'r!
But woe! to the cuff, who, starved by his drinks,
Was starving his children as well,—
O Man! break away from the treacherous links
Of a chain that will drag you to hell!

Come along, come along, man! it's never too late,
Though drowning, we throw you a rope:
Be quick and be quit of so fearful a fate,
For while there is life there is hope:
So wisely come with us, and work like the rest,
And save of your pay while you can,
And Heaven will bless you for doing your best,
And helping yourself like a man!

For Labour is riches, and Labour is health,
And Labour is duty on earth,
And never was honour, or wisdom, or wealth,
But Labour has been at its birth:
The rich,—in his father, his friend, or himself,
By head or by hand must have toil'd,
And the brow that is canopied over with pelf
By Labour's own sweat has been soil'd!

MARTIN F. TUPPER.

## MOVEABLE PLATFORM FOR RAILWAY STATIONS.

SIR,—The ingenious and novel idea suggested by your correspondent "R. R. M." in THE BUILDER of the 21st inst. for a *saving of time* in railway travelling by means of a moveable platform is one which, under the present system of management, at the smaller stations, (for I presume it is to the subordinate stations your correspondent's idea would more particularly attach) would be found to be impracticable, for the following reasons, amongst many others that might be adduced:—If the speed of the train is diminished, as your correspondent desires, to the rate of ten miles per hour, and we take three minutes as the average time occupied in distributing the passengers and depositing the goods, the moveable platform would, in such case, be carried forward by the train a distance of half a mile before it could be disconnected, and it would require the further time of one minute before the platform could be stopped by means of breaks, with any degree of safety to the persons remaining on the platform. The platform would then be removed from the station nearly two-thirds of a mile, and if we add four minutes more—the probable time that would elapse before the return of the platform to its original position was complete—the porter and station-master, whose duties require them to be on the platform with the train, would have been absent from the station eight minutes. Now, suppose, as is constantly the case, that the up and down trains arrive at the station at the same moment, it is evident one of the trains will carry forward the platform without the station-master and porter, and the travellers will be left to shift for themselves, as best they may: the guards also of the train will be wholly unable to communicate with the station-master. Such occurrences would amount to an inconvenience of a very serious nature in the working of the traffic, and could only be remedied by providing a double set of hands to work each station. Whether such a remedy would be advisable or not, I leave for the more mature consideration of the Directors of the several railway companies; for my own part, I think the advantages to be gained by carrying out an idea similar to that of your correspondent "R. R. M." are not at all commensurate with the increased expenditure, now, alas! too heavy on all lines, that would ultimately fall upon the public.

W. L. B. G.

## SCULPTURE PRIZE IN WALES.

AT the 15th Eisteddfod of the Abergavenny Cymreigyddion, held on the 11th and 12th inst., the prize of 70 guineas, offered for the best model in plaster, illustrative of the Cambro-British History, was awarded to Mr. John Evan Thomas, of London. The incident chosen (one of four named in the terms of competition) is the death of Tewdric, King of Gwent, in the moment of victory over the Saxons at Mathern on the Wye.

The figures, which (in compliance with the conditions) are executed in the round, are 4 feet in height. The group consists of the dying hero, in a reclining posture, supported by a female figure—we presume that of his daughter Archell—who is whispering in his ear, with an aged bard bearing his harp in the back ground. The king grasps a cross in his right hand, towards which his eyes are directed. The local press speak highly of the work, and express a hope that it will be put into marble.

RAILWAY EMBANKMENT.—SIR: All these slippings and shiftings among railway embankments and cuttings, embolden me to submit to you a suggestion which has over and over again occurred to me, whenever I have seen a cutting or viaduct. What I wish is, to get rid of the straight lines of art, and adopt the curved lines of nature in such works. I think it possible that if such kind of lines were adopted and modified according to circumstances, and a good slope assumed and encouraged to protect them, we should hear little of failure or decay. I fancy that nature has a very great dislike to angles, and is always intent upon rubbing them down with her thumb; but that if she find them already softened off, she takes no further trouble, and there they stick for ever.—H. K.

For more information on PDF Compression and OCR visit our website